

## Part 2: Gnostic Christianity

"After six years given to the impartial investigation of Christianity, as to its truth or falsity, I have come to the deliberate conclusion that Jesus Christ was the Messiah of the Jews, the Saviour of the world, and my personal Saviour."

~ Lew Wallace, *Former skeptic and author of Ben-Hur*

"The Christ of creed and dogma can no longer command the assent of those who have seen the heavens through Galileo's telescope. The old deities and demons were swept from the skies by that remarkable glass. Copernicus, Kepler, and Galileo have dismantled the mythological abodes of the gods and Satan, and bequeathed us secular heavens."

~ Robert W. Funk, *Jesus Seminar Scholar*

"I do not think that anyone, anywhere, at any time brings dead people back to life."

~ John Dominic Crossan

"From the standpoint of literary evidence, the only logical conclusion is that that case for the reliability of the New Testament is infinitely stronger than for any other record of antiquity."

~ Howard Vos, *NT Scholar*

"The apostles at that time first preached the Gospel but later, by the will of God, they delivered it to us in the Scriptures, that it might be the foundation and pillar of our faith."

~ Irenaeus

"The church bases its claims mostly on the teachings of an obscure young Jew with messianic pretensions who, let's face it, didn't make much of an impression in his lifetime. There isn't a single word about him in secular history. Not a word. No mention of him by the Romans. Not so much as a reference by Josephus."

~ Charles Templeton, *Act Of God (a novel)*

"While some believe that we know almost nothing about Jesus from ancient, non-New Testament sources, this is plainly not the case. Not only are there many such sources, but Jesus is one of the persons of ancient history concerning whom we have a significant amount of quality data. His is one of the most mentioned and most substantiated lives in ancient times."

~ Dr. Gary R. Habermas, *NT Scholar & Philosopher*

"The excessive scepticism shown toward the Bible by important historical schools of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries... has been progressively discredited. Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details, and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history."

~ William F. Albright, *John Hopkins University, Archaeologist*

"Jesus of Nazareth practiced magic and led Israel astray."

~ Talmud (*b. Sanhedrin 43a & 107b*)

"There exists no document from the ancient world witnessed by so excellent a set of textual and historical testimonies and offering so superb an array of historical data on which an intelligent decision may be made. An honest [person] cannot dismiss a source of this kind. Scepticism regarding the historical credentials of Christianity is based upon an irrational bias."

~ Clark Pinnock, *Set Forth Your Case (1968)*

"The Bible is the portrait of Jesus Christ."

~ John Stott